(b) The MOU on banking cooperation provides that the two countries shall con sider favourably the opening of representa tive office by banks from the other country and strengthen correspondent banking arrangements. The MOU on simplification of visa procedures provides that the two countries would issue multiple entry visas valid ->for three years to holders of diplo matic and official passports working in diplomatic and consular missions in the two countries.

Indo-Saudi joint Economic Commission Meeting

2230. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the Indo-Saudi Joint Economic Commission meeting held in Riyadh recently and its impact on Indo-Saudi bilateral relations;

(bl whether the Indian delegation interacted with the top Saudi leaders during the visit and, if so, the political import of the talks on the Kashmir issue held with them particularly the role likely to be played by OIC countries, whose guiding spirit happened to be Saudi Arabia, where the headquarters of the. 51-Member Islamic Conference are located; and

(c) if so, how far it was able to con vince the Saudi Government of the Indian stand to resolve the dispute by mutual talks in pursuance of the Simla Agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Dining the fourth session of the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission held in Riyadh on December 3-4, 1994, the two sides held in-depth discussions on bilateral economic issues and took steps to further develop their economic relationship. The overall impact r>f the session on bilateral relations is likely to be positive.

(b) and (c) The leader of the Indian delegation held talks with several Saudi leaders and appropriately conveyed to them India's views on the Kashmir issue.

Development of aero-based industries in Maharashtra

2231. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal/scheme for the development of agro-based industries in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating their location and the provision made for employment of rural youth and the total amount of investment including the foreign investment if any; and

(c) the present stage of these proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Since liberalisation, till November, 1994, 409 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda, involving an investment of Rs. 8712 crores, and employment of 67428 persons, have been filed for setting up of food processing units in the state of Maharashtra. In addition 90 proposals have been approved for setting up of food processing units in Joint Venture/Foreign Collaboration/100% Export Oriented Unit etc.

(c) Out of the Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda filed, 26 units have already started commercial production. Out of the other approvals 3 projects have been started production in Maharashtra till 93-94 involving an investment of Rs. 102 crores and Foreign investment of Rs. 7.07 crores.

Contract labour system in Corporate Offices

2232. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FOOD PRO CESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether project work is still being undertaken under contract labour system in the Corporate Offices under his Ministry in various States;

(b) the details of these States where works are being executed through contractors and engaged on N.M.Rs and daily wages;

(c) the States where contract laboui system has since been abolished ;

(d) whether Government have any scheme *to* liberate the labourers from the contract system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Scheme for revival of sick deep sea fishing industry

2233. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any viable and practical scheme for revival of the sick deep-fishing industry will be formulated by Government ;

(b) if so, the details of fresh initiative in this regard;

(c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has been involved in such for mulation of policies for revival of the deep-sea marine fishery sector in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARTJN GOGOJ>: (a) and (b) A Technical Committe, comprising of representatives of various concerned Ministries and organisations was constituted to look into the problems of the deep-sea fishing industry. The Committee has recommended remedial measures for the revival of the deep-sea fishinc sector. Action on the recommendations of the Committee has been initiated at inter-ministerial level.

fc) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Report on fish catch by foreign vessels Export of fish products

2234. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total catch declared by the chartered and leased deep sea fishing vessel operators during the year 1993-94;

(b) what was the share of Government on the said operation in terms of (a) tonnage (b) value;

(c) whether it is a fact that large scale fish catch by foreign vessels are reported;

fd) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard;

(e) whether it is a fact that there has been persistent representation to the Government aga.nst the policy of deep sea fishing by chartered and foreign vessels; and

(f) if so, what are the details of the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) the total catch declared by the chartered and leased vessels during the year 1993-94 was £919 tonnes.

(b) Chartering and Leasing of deep sea fishing vessels are allowed to Indian companies and there is no share of the Government in such operations. However, licence fee at the rate of Rs. 10.000 per vessel per annum and Rs. 25,000 per vessel per annum is paid by the Indian companies in Charter and Leasing respectively. Moreover, export cess at the rate of 1% on the total catch value is also paid by them.

(c) and (d) As against the total marine fish production of 26.88 lakh tonnes during 1993-94, the catch of leased and chartered fishing vessels was only 8919 tonnes which formed only 0.34% of the total catch.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. Representations have been received from associations of traditional fishermen from Gujarat, Kerala, etc. to withdraw licences issued to foreign fishing vessels and for deep sea fishing vessels being operated under Joint Ventures, Charter and Leasing etc. The matter has been reviewed recently in consultation with the State Governments and through appointment of an Expert Committee for indepth study of the situation. However, no adverse impact of the operation of the deep sea fishing vessels on coasf.il fishing was established. On the other hand, it was found that un-checked and un-regtilated increase in the coastal fishing effort had led to the increased competition between traditional fishing boats and mechanised fishing vessels for targeting a finite resource. In view of this, it was not felt necessay to withdraw the licences issued to deep sea fishing vessels under the above schemes. However, it has been decided that no more applications for deep sea fishing will be processed till the whole matter is reviewed.

Export of fish products

2235. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total foreign exchange earned by Government from the export of fish pro. ducts in the year 1990 to 1992;

(b) what steps have been taken to promote foreign trade in fish products; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The total foreign exchange earned through export of marine products during the vear 1990-91 to 1992-93 is given below:—

Year	Qu ntity (In thousand tonnes)	Value (In crores)
1990-91	139.4	893.37
1991-92	171.8	1375.89
1992-93	208.6	1768.56

(b) The information is furnished in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(c) Does not arise.